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CHAL-0204
Copy 1 of 7

19 June 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR : Special Assistant to the Director
for Planning and Development

THROUGH : Director of Administration, DPS/DCI


SUBJECT : Camouflage Painting

REFERENCE : CHAL-0194, dated 12 June 1958, Same Subject

1. I feel it is necessary to mention an additional point for consideration in the decision to paint CHALICE aircraft for camouflage purposes.

2. It is my view an obvious camouflage effort will add an additional fact to the increasing information available to the public and Soviets suggesting we are engaged in other than peaceful weather research. Therefore, I recommend this specific point be fully examined prior to your reaching a decision to so paint our operational vehicles.

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Security Officer
DPS/DCI

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This document contains information
referring to Project CHALICE

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CHAL-0205
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19 June 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Special Assistant to the Director
for Planning and Development

SUBJECT : Camouflage Painting

REFERENCE : (a) CHAL-0194, dated 12 June 1958, Same Subject
(b) CHAL-0204, dated 19 June 1958, Same Subject

1. In connection with the transmission to you of reference (b) from the Security Officer, DPS/DCI, I would only state that while it may be technically possible that a camouflage effort would tend to depreciate the cover story to a certain extent, I do not believe that this fact alone would bring about any more adverse reaction from the Soviets than we have encountered to date.

2. After discussions with Kelly Johnson on the subject last week, in which he pointed out that during tests run between the U-2 and the F-104, the former vehicle was easily spotted at altitudes as a result of its gleaming aluminum finish. I believe the camouflage paint would give us more protection over enemy territory than any cover story at the same moment.

3. Consequently, while I appreciate [] point in bringing this to your attention, I would personally favor a decision to camouflage the aircraft as being a gamble which we cannot afford to fail to take at this particular stage in the life of the U-2 aircraft.

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JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.
Director of Administration
DPS/DCI

JAC/sb

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